

outstanding academic achievement. This prestigious award is one of our nation's highest for high school students. Caroline is being honored as a Presidential Scholar for exceptional performance on the SAT. She earned a perfect score of 2400.

At Lewisville High School, Caroline is 2nd in her class and a leader in the band, as well as a member of National Honors Society and various other organizations. Outside of school, she is a member of our Congressional Youth Advisory Council and has received many well deserved accolades in Lewisville and Denton County.

Caroline is a notable example of how the education system in Texas is committed to fostering growth in students and giving them the skills they need to achieve. Congratulations to Caroline, her family, and Lewisville High School for this outstanding achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA
CICHOWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor of Patricia Cichowicz for her unflagging dedication to serving Northeast Ohio veterans.

Born to Emmett and Ann Holleran, Patricia excelled at school and developed a deep consideration for the most vulnerable in our midst. During her undergraduate and graduate studies, Patricia taught elementary school at St. Stanislaus and St. Vincent de Paul. After graduation, her devotion to our community's children continued as she taught special education at St. Thomas More.

Eager to spread her generosity to other members of the community, Patricia sought opportunities to serve other vulnerable populations. Her search brought her to cross paths with Martin Virsis and Joe Paul, two men on similar journeys to serve the community. They began Mobil Martin, an ambulette business that transports disabled veterans around the community. Since 1996, when Mobil Martin comprised three vans and a dining room of office, they have been a vital resource for Cleveland's veteran community.

Despite the sacrifices that veterans make in service to their country, once they leave active duty their efforts can go unrecognized. Patricia and everyone at Mobil Martin recognized the injustice inherent in the treatment of veterans, and set to ensure they have the resources to meet their needs. Since Mobil Martin's inception, Patricia's dedication has been evident in everything she has done, from helping the organization in its infancy, to ensuring all the veterans had shoes or lap blankets.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Patricia Cichowicz for all her contributions to the Cleveland community. May her commitment to veterans serve as an example for us all, that we may repay their service with our own compassion.

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF
CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of César Chávez, not only because he was one of the great leaders of our country, but also because he was my friend. César was a man of courage, faith, and love who shared his strength with thousands and inspired millions of Americans.

To know César was to stand in awe of the enormous task he set for himself and the great moral leadership he gave to the campaign to challenge injustice and achieve peaceful change. His life, his cause, and his commitment have been and remain an inspiration to me.

His struggle for oppressed farmworkers fired our conscience. He insisted that this Nation acknowledge that every human being, regardless of origin, is of worth and is entitled to reach for a better tomorrow.

What made César Chávez stand out was that he lived the principles he preached: truth and courage. He knew what it was like to be treated without respect, and to work all day, everyday, with little to show for it. A lesser man may have burned up with anger, but Chávez burned with a love of justice and hope for a brighter future.

César's struggle for justice is far from over and we must continue to help others help themselves.

In Congress, we hold the power to create change. The Agricultural Jobs, Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007 would bring major improvements to the lives of farmworkers in America. This bill would create a path for eligible undocumented farmworkers to apply for temporary immigration status or permanent residency based on their work experience. It would also preserve and enhance key labor protections for guestworkers.

Like Chávez, I believe there's nothing more wasteful than leaving a child with no good choices after graduation, and nothing more un-American than charging children with the offenses of their parents. With César in mind, I introduced the Dream Act, a bill that helps undocumented students realize their dream of going to college and becoming permanent legal members of the communities they've always called home.

César helped us see through the eyes of farmworkers—and what they saw was a dark and hopeless world. But under his leadership, they saw a new world, one of strength and hope, united against poverty and exploitation. Under UFW contracts, they won higher pay and for the first time—health coverage and pension benefits.

We will remember César's fight and never forget what he taught us—that we will succeed—that we will protect the gains that were so hard to win—that we will never give up.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes Nos. 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on: roll No. 190, roll No. 191, roll No. 192, roll No. 193, roll No. 194, roll No. 195, roll No. 198, roll No. 199, and roll No. 201.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on: roll No. 196, roll No. 197, and roll No. 200.

HONORING DR. CHRISTOPHER
COPPOLA AS HE IS HONORED
WITH THE SAINT FRANCIS XA-
VIER AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. Christopher Coppola as he is honored by his alma mater, Xavier High School, with their distinguished Saint Francis Xavier Award. This prestigious award recognizes those who have demonstrated outstanding character and leadership—qualities which are at the core of an Xavier education.

Chris has achieved many great accomplishments throughout his life. He is a loving husband and father, dedicated pediatric surgeon, and proud member of the United States Air Force. It was just last year that Chris, a member of the 859th Surgical Operations Squadron, was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his 4 month tour, Chris fought to save the lives of hundreds—American and Iraqi alike. It was from his experiences there that he recently published the book, "Made a Difference for That One: A Surgeon's Letters Home From Iraq."

As a doctor and surgeon, Chris has witnessed a myriad of incidents and battled to save the lives of countless patients. Even with all of his experience, Chris was unsure of what he might find waiting for him in Iraq. He began writing to his wife, Meredith, and family as a way to purge the horrific scenes he saw day in and day out. Chris wrote about every aspect of the war—from what he was eating to descriptions of the patients he was treating. One of the most telling letters described his experience with two young girls whose home had been fire bombed. Both burned badly, Chris and the surgical team fought to save them—unfortunately they lost one. In a twist of fate, Chris also saved the life of a man whom he later discovered was responsible for the bombing of the girls' home.

Meredith saved all of Chris's letters, often sharing them with their three sons and other family members. Chris is one of my cousins and I received a package from his parents containing some of his letters. I was touched, not only by his description of his experience, but by the dedication and commitment he showed to his own mission. I was proud to